

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, UY

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RENEWAL OF GOVERNMENTAL TENSIONS

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1949

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS HORWITZ MEMCON ON CONVERSATIONS

(A) WITH COL FONS ON FRIDAY, JUNE 6 AT STEVE WATKIN'S HOME AND (B) WITH MINISTER ALBURQUERQUE AT PARTY AT HORWITZ' HOME ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7.

(A) MEMCON WITH COL. FONS AT HOME OF STEVE WATKINS

1. STEVE WATKINS INTRODUCED ME TO COL. FONS WHO ALMOST IMMEDIATELY TOLD ME THAT HE IS AT WAR WITH MINISTER ALBURQUERQUE. I ASKED WHY AND HE SAID THAT ALBURQUERQUE IS A COMMUNIST OR A CRYPTO-COMMUNIST. HE SAID THAT WHILE THERE WAS NOT VERY MUCH EVIDENCE IN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE FILES, HE KNEW OF ALBURQUERQUE'S COMMUNIST ATTITUDES AND AFFILIATIONS. HE MENTIONED THAT A FEW MONTHS BEFORE ALLENDE'S FALL, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALBURQUERQUE HAD GONE TO CHILE TO CONSULT WITH LEFT WINGERS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE. HE ALSO SAID THAT ALBURQUERQUE THREW A PARTY AT LA ESTANZUELA TO "CELEBRATE" THE NIGHT THAT DAN MITRIONE WAS ASSAS-

SINATED BY THE TUPAMAROS. HE THEN EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OPEN COMMUNISTS WITH PARTY AFFILIATIONS AND CRYPTO COMMUNISTS WHO DENY THEIR AFFILIATION AND EVEN OCCASIONALLY CRITICIZE THE COMMUNISTS. I ASKED HOW HE KNEW WHO WAS A CRYPTO-COMMUNIST. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE LONG HAD FOUGHT COMMUNISTS IN URUGUAY AND HE KNEW HOW THEY OPERATE.

2. COL. FONS THEN SAID THAT LA ESTANZUELA WAS A QTE NEST OF COMMUNISTS AND CRYPTO-COMMUNISTS UNQTE AND THAT AID AND FAO WERE HELPING THEM. I THEN MENTIONED THAT AID HAD JUST AUTHORIZED A DOLS 4.85 MILLION LOAN TO ASSIST IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND PESCA PRIMARILY TO HELP DEVELOP NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR URUGUAYAN FARMERS. I SAID THAT THE COLONEL'S COMMENTS WERE A MATTER OF CONCERN AND COULD SUGGEST THAT AID RECONSIDER THE LOAN BEFORE SIGNING A LOAN AGREEMENT. COL. FONS SAID THAT AID WOULD ONLY HAVE TO POSTPONE THE LOAN FOR A FEW MONTHS UNTIL ALBURQUERQUE WAS OUT OF OFFICE. I STATED THAT AID MAKES LOANS TO GOVERNMENTS AND NOT TO INDIVIDUAL MINISTERS AND THAT WE ASSUMED THAT BOTH PARTIES WOULD CARRY OUT THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE LOAN NO MATTER WHO WAS THE MINISTER. SR. JASO ANCHORENA, PRESIDENT OF THE RURAL ASSOCIATION, WHO WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE CONVERSATION SAID THAT AID SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE LOAN SINCE IT WAS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO URUGUAYAN AGRICULTURE. COL. FONS THEN SAID HIS COMMENTS ABOUT ALBURQUERQUE WERE ONLY HIS OWN PERSONAL OPINION. I SAID THAT I CONSIDERED HIS OPINIONS TO BE IMPORTANT.

3. DURING MOST OF THE CONVERSATION, WHICH LASTED ABOUT ONE-HALF HOUR, SEVERAL PERSONS PARTICIPATED INCLUDING STEVE WATKINS, SR. JASO ANCHORENA AND DR. STACHLE OF THE MINISTRY AMONG OTHERS.

4. COMMENT: DURING MOST OF THE CONVERSATION, I LISTENED TO COL. FONS' ACCUSATIONS ABOUT MINISTER ALBURQUERQUE
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WITHOUT COMMENT. WHEN HE TERMED LA ESTANZUELA A QTE NEST OF COMMUNISTS UNQTE AND NOTED AID AND FAO SUPPORT I CONSIDERED IT ADVISABLE TO INDICATE TO COL. FONS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE INFORMATION HE PROVIDED SINCE FOR LEGAL (SECTION 620(B) OF FAA) AND BASIC POLICY REASONS, I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ANY INFORMATION OR POSSIBLE CHARGES THAT AID HAS MADE A LOAN TO A QTE COMMUNIST UNQTE MINISTER OR TO AN ORGANIZATION (QTE LA ESTANZUELA UNQTE) THAT WAS A NEST OF COMMUNISTS.

5. THE ABOVE ARE THE SALIENT POINTS OF THE CONVERSATION WITH COL. FONS. MR. WATKINS AND MR. TAYLOR CAN CONFIRM AND/OR PROVIDE DETAILS I MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED.

6. (B) MEMCON OF CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ALBURQUERQUE AT PARTY AT MY HOME ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7. DURING PARTY AT MY HOME FOR AID/W LOAN TEAM ON AGRICULTURAL LOAN, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION INCIDENT WITH COL. FONS IN BRIEF CONVERSATION. (COMMENT: MINISTER ALBURQUERQUE HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TOLD ME OF HIS DIFFICULTIES WITH COL. FONS.) I SIMPLY MENTIONED THAT I HAD MET COL. FONS AT A PARTY, THAT CERTAIN ACCUSATIONS HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST HIM AND LA ESTANZUELA AND THAT I HAD REPLIED THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS A MATTER OF CONCERN SINCE AID HAD JUST AUTHORIZED A DOLS 4.85 MILLION LOAN TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. I TOLD HIM THAT I SAID TO COL. FONS THAT IN LIGHT OF THE INFORMATION, AID MAY WANT TO RECONSIDER THE LOAN. I ALSO MENTIONED MY CONCERN THAT INFORMATION OF THIS TYPE MENTIONED PUBLICLY COULD BE DISTORTED TO THE EFFECT THAT AID WAS GIVING LOANS TO COMMUNISTS. MINISTER ALBURQUERQUE SAID THAT COL. FONS WAS CONSTANTLY SAYING SUCH THINGS WITHIN THE MINISTRY AND IN PUBLIC AND THIS HAD BEEN A CAUSE OF CONCERN TO HIM. HE SAID HE MAY MENTION THE INCIDENT TO PRESIDENT BORDABERRY. I SAID I DID NOT WANT TO GET THE EMBASSY OR AID INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER. I SAID THAT I FELT HE SHOULD KNOW OF THE CONVERSATION WITH COL. FONS IF HE SHOULD HEAR FROM SOME OTHER SOURCE OF MY INDICATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF AID RECONSIDERING THE IATA LOAN. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MY VIEW FULLY. HE SAID HE WOULD TALK TO SR. JASO ANCHORENA, A GOOD FRIEND TO ELICIT THE INFORMATION OF

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THE DISCUSSION WITH FONS AND USE HIM AS THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION. KISSINGER

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